

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/674,570
Amendment dated June 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

In the Amendment, claim 27 has been canceled, and the subject matter of claim 27 has been incorporated into claim 15. Accordingly, full support for this amendment exists in the claims as originally filed. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 15-17 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0112955 A1 to Aimone et al. The Examiner asserts that Aimone et al. shows a sputtering target containing tantalum hydride or niobium hydride located on a backing plate. The Examiner believes that the remaining subject matter of claims 16, 17, and 29 are present in Aimone et al. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Since the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 27 is only objected to, but otherwise would be allowable, the language of claim 27 has been incorporated into claim 15. Accordingly, claim 15 and the claims dependent thereon would be allowable, especially since Aimone et al. does not teach or suggest a backing plate which is hydrided. For these reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aimone et al. in view of Kardokus et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,863,398). The Examiner asserts that Aimone et al. does not specify specific bonding methods, but that Kardokus et al. shows conventional bonding to a backing plate by welding, brazing, soldering, or explosion bonding. Thus, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to use these bonding techniques in the target of Aimone et al. For the following reasons, this rejection is

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respectfully traversed.

As in the above rejection, claim 15 now recites that the backing layer is hydrided and this is not shown by Aimone et al. or by Kardokus et al. Since claims 20 and 21 are dependent on claim 15, this subject matter is also not taught or suggested by the cited references.

At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner then rejects claims 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aimone et al. in view of Ohhashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,693,203). The Examiner relies on Aimone et al. in the same fashion as above and asserts that Ohhashi et al. shows the use of an interlayer and that it would be obvious to use this interlayer in the target of Aimone et al. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Since claims 22 and 26 are dependent on claim 15 and for the reasons set forth above, Aimone et al. does not teach or suggest a backing plate that is hydrided, and Ohhashi et al. does not teach or suggest a backing plate that is hydrided. Accordingly, for these reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-14, 18, 19, 23-25, and 28 are allowed and that claim 27 is objected to. As indicated above, since claim 15 now includes the subject matter of claim 27, all remaining claims should be allowable as well.

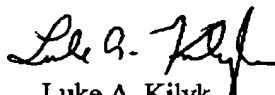
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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